

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:811

ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008

BORDER DISPUTE WITH CHINA AND BANGLADESH

Adityanath Yogi Shri ;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiative to solve the border disputes with China and Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modalities chalked out in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for exchanging of enclaves in between India and Bangladesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the exchange of enclaves are likely to take place?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes.

(b) During the visit of former PM Vajpayee to China from 22-27 June 2003, India and China agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been twelve meetings of the Special Representatives so far. The two Special Representatives are exploring the framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the India-China boundary. India and Bangladesh signed a Land Boundary Agreement in 1974 which has been implemented except for three issues pertaining to:

- (i) demarcation of 6.1 km of the border in three sectors, namely: Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam sector), South Berubari (1.5 km in West Bengal sector), and Muhuri river/Belonia sector (1.6 km in Tripura sector);
- (ii) exchange of adverse possessions; and
- (iii) exchange of enclaves.

Government of India are keen on an early settlement of all boundary related issues including exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions with Bangladesh. The Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) between India and Bangladesh was set up in 2001 to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). JBWG has met thrice; the last meeting of the JBWG was held in Dhaka on July 15 & 16, 2006.

(c) to (e) There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India. The agreed list of enclaves was signed between the officials of the two countries in 1997. The 1974 Land Boundary Agreement states that the enclaves should be exchanged expeditiously. The issue of exchange of enclaves is being discussed in the Joint Boundary Working Group between both countries. Government of India are committed for an early settlement of all boundary related issues with Bangladesh.